

The Baptist Record

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Kirghiz are focus for Day of Prayer

By Donald D. Martin

RICHMOND, VA. — This year's World Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focuses on the Kirghiz, a nomadic people living in the mountainous Central Asian region of the Soviet Union and western China.

The third annual day of prayer and fasting is scheduled from 6 p.m. June 1 to 6 p.m. June 2.

The Kirghiz (pronounced Kir-geez) people number about 22 million and are mostly Muslims and nomadic herders. They live in felt-covered tents, or yurts, on some of the highest plateaus in the world.

Life for the Kirghiz, who are of Turkic and Mongolian descent, is hard and isolated. The climate is harsh, and in any given year, only about 60 days are free of snow on the ground. Few roads exist in the region. During the long winters, isolation increases for the nomadic families because neighboring families must move away from each other to give their herds more grazing room on the sparse mountain grasslands.

The Kirghiz' isolation has made them fiercely independent. Soviet authorities tried to make farmers out of the Kirghiz by placing families on collective farms. But after more than 20 years with little success, Moscow allowed the Kirghiz to return to herding their livestock as they have done for more than a thousand years.

Only one book of the Bible, Acts, is currently printed in their language. The rest of the New Testament has been translated into Kirghiz, but remains to be printed. The Old Testament is now being translated. Also, short gospel radio messages are aired each week in Kirghiz. Christian researchers know of only about 25

Kirghiz Christians who study the Bible and worship regularly.

Minette Drumwright, director of the Foreign Mission Board's prayer office, said she is asking Southern Baptists — now and on the day of prayer and fasting — to ask God for progress in providing Scriptures to the Kirghiz, for additional gospel radio broadcasts, for greater spiritual anointing of Kirghiz believers, and for the evangelization of Kirghiz who live outside the Soviet Union so they may become missionaries to their own people.

Praying for a lost world is not a simple charge, she said. A church that adds its own individual touch to the day of prayer and fasting will see greater participation and more focused prayer.

For example, Tallowood Church in Houston plans to build on last year's church-wide observance of the day of prayer and fasting with a 24-hour chain of prayer. Individuals and departments of the 4,000-member church have signed up to pray for one hour or more in the church's prayer chapel, said Donna Dee Floyd, the chapel coordinator.

All ages are involved. More than 400 children from the various children's choirs will pray with their parents at the chapel June 1. Later that evening, about 80 single adults on the church's softball teams plan to start their games with prayer for the Kirghiz. After the games, each team will go straight from the playing field to the chapel to pray. During a weekend retreat on Galveston Island south of Houston, one of the church's youth groups plans to pray for world evangelism at midnight on the

island's sea wall.

"We hope that our church will come to an understanding of God's burden for a lost world," Floyd said. "We want our members to see that their prayer life can make a difference — a world of difference."

Each year the Foreign Mission Board prayer office emphasizes to Southern Baptist missionaries and churches around the world the need to join this day of prayer and fasting, Drumwright said.

A year ago, when Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians came together in prayer and fasting for world evangelization, their efforts centered on the Zhuang (pronounced Shwang) people, a minority group in southern China that numbers about 16 million. The Zhuang people have lived in China for several thousand years. They are the largest non-Chinese ethnic group in China, and most live in isolated rural areas. Christian researchers consider them one of the world's least evangelized peoples.

After Christians around the world spent 24 hours fasting and praying for the Zhuang, new evangelism inroads emerged, Drumwright said.

"We ask our missionaries to encourage the churches, conventions, and unions with whom they relate to join us in this day of prayer and fasting," she said. "We have received reports that many in other parts of the world have participated in the observance."

"We urge the churches of our convention to take seriously this opportunity of extraordinary, united prayer," she said.

Martin writes for FMB.



Support pledged to Brazil's Collor

BRASILIA, Brazil (BP) — A delegation of Brazilian Baptists and Southern Baptist officials pledged their prayer support during an April 26 meeting with Brazil's new president, Fernando Collor de Mello.

The group met Collor, who took office March 15, at the presidential palace in the capital city of Brasilia. The visit was arranged to introduce the president to Brazilian Baptists, who number nearly 700,000, and to assure him of their prayers.

At 41, Collor is Brazil's youngest president and its first directly elected president in 30 years. During the 30-minute meeting, Collor reportedly told Baptist leaders: "I would not be here if I didn't have faith in God. This faith I will never deny as long as I live."

Boyd O'Neal, a former missionary to Brazil, coordinated the Baptist delegation. O'Neal, now an associate

director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's volunteer department in Richmond, Va., has known the president since Collor's childhood.

O'Neal used to pray and read the Bible with Collor's father, who was elected governor of the state of Alagoas in 1951, when O'Neal came to the capital city of Maceio there. He continued that practice with the younger Collor when he was elected mayor and later governor.

Collor, a Roman Catholic, "is a great respecter of evangelical people," said O'Neal, who was named an honorary citizen of Alagoas state during his missionary career. O'Neal is from Novice, Texas.

In the meeting with the new president, Brazilian Baptists pledged their support in a statement read by evangelist Nilson Fanini, president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

O'Neal led in prayer for the president, and the Baptists gave Collor two Portuguese Bibles. The president broke from protocol and embraced O'Neal during the ceremony. The group also included 10 other Brazilian Baptist leaders and Bill Richardson, the Foreign Mission Board's area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.

The day after Collor took office, he announced a plan to curb Brazil's runaway inflation. Between March 1989 and February 1990, prices in Brazil jumped 2,751 percent, according to press reports. Collor's measures created a new currency, froze wages and prices, and blocked access to savings and financial assets.

"Brazil right now is going through a tremendous crisis," said O'Neal. But in spite of economic turmoil, "The whole country seems optimistic . . .

There's a feeling that good is going to come out of this."

KIRGHIZ HORSEMAN — The fiercely independent Kirghiz people of Soviet Central Asia and western China are the focus of this year's World Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. The day of prayer and fasting is scheduled from 6 p.m. June 1 to 6 p.m. June 2. Mission leaders are asking Southern Baptists to join Christians around the world in the day of united prayer. The Kirghiz (pronounced KIR-geez) people number about 2.2 million and are mostly Muslims and nomadic herders. Only one book of the Bible, Acts, is currently printed in their language. (FMB) Photo by Galen Rowell/Mountain Light

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Contact your legislator

State Sen. Irb Benjamin of Rienzi was one of 26 senators to vote against a lottery concept when it was before the Legislature. There were reports that he was considering changing his vote in the upcoming special session, but he has declared such is not the case. He says his constituents are overwhelmingly against it. Now Sen. Bill Canon of Columbus is the only one who opposed the lottery who is said to be considering a change. Perhaps he will stay with his former vote also.

Actually, there were 27 senators who opposed the lottery. Senator Rob Smith was called off the floor just before the vote.

There has been a great deal of commotion regarding that vote and the claim that those senators refused to allow the public to vote on the issue. This has been true especially in the Clarion-Ledger, daily paper of Jackson.

The simple reason for the fact that there has been no vote by the people is that the constitution is set up that way. There is no referendum or initiative system in Mississippi. That is the way citizens get items on the ballot. In Mississippi it takes two-thirds vote by both houses of the Legislature to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot. And that is

good. The constitution should not be easily amendable. So far there hasn't been a two-thirds vote. Hopefully, there won't be. As the system is set up now, the legislators must vote for what they feel is right, not whether or not the people should have a chance to vote.

But there is a lot of pressure. Baptist people need to be in touch with their legislators to let them know they support the vote against the lottery. Gambling would not provide a stable income and actually could detract from education funding. Money now going for education could go elsewhere if we were to begin to depend on a lottery to provide financing. And the lottery almost assuredly would not come up to expectations.

In February, Senator Benjamin wrote to the Baptist Record to note why he is opposed to a lottery. He said that he personally opposes a lottery, but his main concern is that only 20 cents of every \$5 spent on the lottery would be available for education. Only \$1 out of \$5 would be available to Mississippi; and of that \$1, only 20 cents would be available to fund the education program.

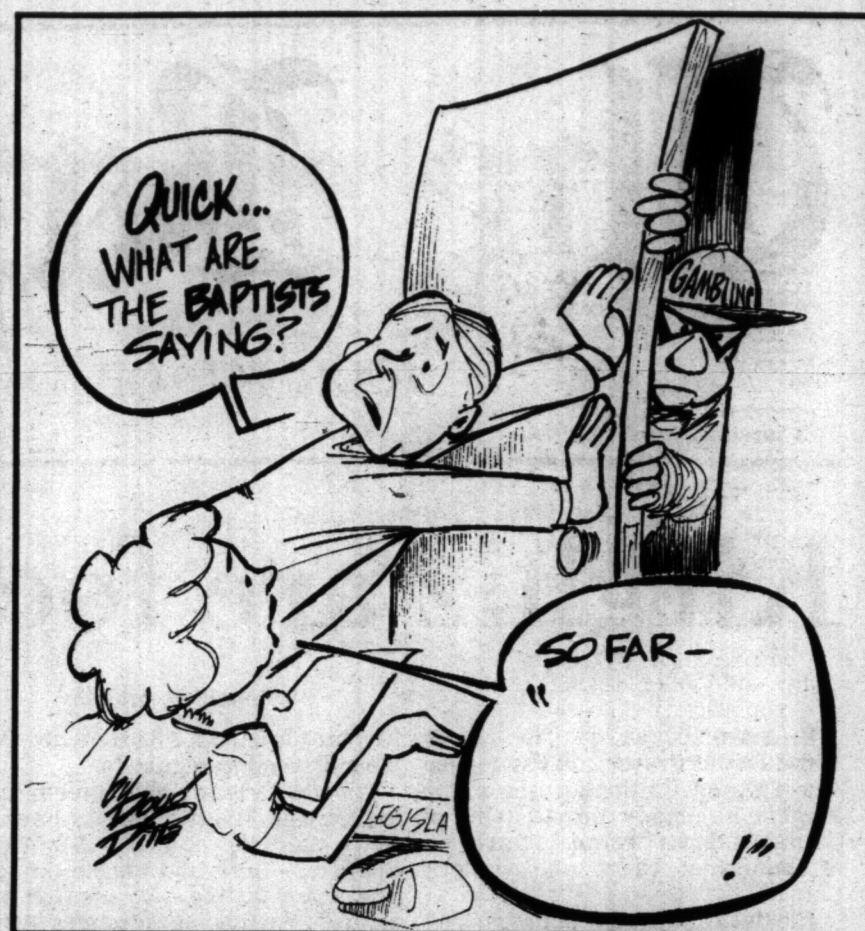
He wrote, "I personally think it is a poor way to raise the revenue needed to fund educational reform."

I agree. And one of the main reasons is that the children who would be provided an education by means of a lottery would be given to understand that a lottery and any method of gambling would be all right. That would be a powerful and dangerous lesson. And it would result in money leaving Mississippi, not bringing money in.

On the matter of a vote on the Nevada Gaming Commission, the scene switches to the House. The Senate has already passed it, and probably it will come before the House in the special session.

We don't need a gaming commission of any sort, for to have one would open the door even further for gambling. All we have now is riverboat gambling, and perhaps we can get rid of that if we hold the line. Our neighbor states don't allow it, so the opportunities are limited. Gambling can be done only in Mississippi waters.

In addition, the Nevada Gaming Commission bill would establish control over gambling of all types in Mississippi. It would be patterned after the Nevada law. People who are licensed to have gambling establishments in Nevada could come into Mississippi and put in gambling



establishments. Then they would be subject to the Nevada law which would have been superimposed onto the Mississippi legal system.

We surely do not want this sort of horse collar put on us. We don't need gambling at all; but if it is forced upon us, we need to be able to control it with our own laws.

Mississippi Baptists need to be in touch with both houses of the

Legislature to let those folks know how we feel. And it needs to be done before the Southern Baptist Convention, for the special session starts immediately thereafter. And if we don't contact our representatives and senators, they are almost defenseless against those who do.

We surely need to let those 27 senators who have opposed the lottery know that we support them.

A Baptist hero

The Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has named Jack Johnson, executive director in Arizona, to become the new president of the Fort Worth based commission, succeeding Jimmy Allen, who resigned a little more than a year ago.

Johnson is to be congratulated. He will be taking the reins of an exciting institution in Southern Baptist life. He is an able person and should be one who can bring the commission to its highest potential.

The new president has been a friend since the editor served in a like capacity in California, and he has always been held in highest regard. His is a very engaging personality.

This piece, however, is not to be focused solely on the new president. In discussing the circumstances at the Radio and Television Commission, the name of Dick McCartney must go down in history without fail. McCartney, who was called to the commission about two years ago as executive vice president, has been acting president since the resignation of Allen. His was the task of operating the commission from the time he arrived. With the departure of Allen, he became the person solely responsible for its welfare, and it was in serious financial difficulty when he arrived. The ACTS Network had put the institution in a bind, it had borrowed \$10 million on which it couldn't maintain the payments; it had hoped to sell the

ACTS Network to get the \$10 million needed, and the sale didn't go through.

Patience but with inordinate courage, McCartney began to make the commission fiscally accountable and to put the pieces back together. He accomplished this in the short time he had in which to do it. When Johnson takes over the reins, the commission will be a solid, viable agency.

I have known McCartney for perhaps 30 years. He was public relations director for the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas when I was associate editor of the Baptist Standard. He went to the Radio and Television Commission from being the editor of the Baptist Messenger in Oklahoma.

One evening, standing outside a hotel in Fort Worth, then R-TV President Allen asked me who I thought would be the man to come in and take over the day to day operations of the commission. Without hesitation I answered, "Dick McCartney." I was not the only one to give such advice.

Dick, who is 62, is not likely to get a chance to be of such service again or to head up such an organization as the R-TV Commission. Southern Baptists need to be aware of him, however. He is a Southern Baptist hero. His name needs to go down in the annals of our history.

We owe him a debt that is larger than any of us realizes.

And with that we will say to Jack Johnson, "Best wishes as you take up

this torch that has been so admirably borne and carry it on to greater heights than have been realized heretofore."

Those who watch the proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention on the ACTS Network will see Dick McCartney in a commentary role. Watch it, and salute him.

Jimmy Allen had the vision that made ACTS possible. Dick McCartney was there to make it work when it seemed there was no way. Jack Johnson will have the opportunity and the responsibility of carrying out its ministry. And I will be able to sit in my home and watch Roy Honeycutt, John Watts, Wayne Ward, and Pamela Scalise of Southern Seminary engage in a marvelous Bible study. Or I may watch as Bill Tolar of Southwestern Seminary teaches the Sunday School lesson.

That is a wonderful privilege.

There is no failure except in no longer trying. — Elbert Hubbard

"Such a lot of nonsense is talked about young people. Youth has no respect for age. Young men are indolent and insolent. Young women are indecorous in their speech, their manners, and their dress." Which daily paper do you think wrote that? It was Peter the Hermit in 1061.

He who can take advice is sometimes superior to him who can give it. — Karl von Knebel

Guest opinion . . .

The meanings of associational missions

By Emmett Wade

Associational missions means many things to many people.

For me it means excellence in commitment to Jesus Christ, whom I have determined to serve all of my days.

It means **teambuilding**. Associations are often described in terms such as "Churches on missions in their setting," "Churches laboring together with God," "Churches on missions together." "A family of churches." Teamwork among the churches is essential if there is to be a strategy to reach all people with the Gospel. Teamwork in my association is best observed in the roles of the mission performance program directors. These persons, together with my director of missions, constitute the associational council.

It means **effectiveness**. The measure of achievement of my association's intentions or the desired results — the criteria being the planning process — planning that is goal oriented or how to get from here to there, planning that is consistent with the association's organizational structure, planning that involves people who will implement the plans, planning that seeks to achieve our particular needs.

It means **efficiency**, properly managing resources for achieving the objectives of our association. Resources include such things as money, time, talent, and facilities.

It means **establishing** communications with pastors, staff members, volunteer workers, and others so that appropriate relationships are established.

It means **working together** in mission action activities, ministry, opportunities, and church growth projects.

It means "Train — Retrain — Educate — or Die."

It means **providing** resources and services to church and associational leaders for accomplishing their mission.

It means **developing** harmony and fellowship among churches and church leaders and members.

It means **a future** with a heart for missions, a strategy for helping churches reach people, goal setting to motivate us, and commitment to witness.

It means being "One Part of a World Mission Program."

Emmett Wade is director of religious education for Northwest Association.

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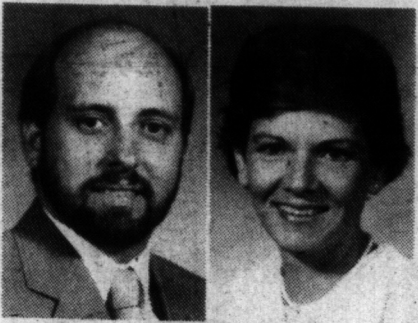
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FMB names Palmers missionaries to Nicaragua



Jim and Viola Palmer

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) — Jim and Viola Palmer, Southern Baptist missionaries to Honduras, have been named liaisons to Nicaragua by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Palmers will work in partnership with Baptist communities in Nicaragua, said Joe Bruce, the board's area director for Middle America and Canada. The couple will coordinate and provide logistical support for volunteers, projects, and ministries provided by the Foreign Mission Board to Nicaraguan Baptists, he said.

The Palmers, who have worked in Honduras since 1981, will move to Managua, Nicaragua's capital, in July. With their transfer, Southern Baptists will have missionaries in all Central American countries.

Palmer, from Marshall, Texas, is national director for Christian social ministries for Honduran Baptists. He helps local Baptist churches find ways to minister through medical, agricultural, well-drilling, and vocational training programs. Mrs. Palmer, the former Viola Montgomery from Fort Worth, Texas, teaches nutrition and food preservation and assists in medical work.

They have two children, Jeremy, 13, and Rebekah, 10.

The Palmers and mission board officials met with Nicaraguan Baptist leaders April 30 in Managua to complete plans for the new liaison role. The Baptist Convention of Nicaragua's board of directors approved the proposal for the liaison May 3, said Tomas Tellez, the convention's executive secretary. Foreign Mission Board trustees already had

(Continued on page 4)

Annuity insurance moves to Prudential

DALLAS (BP) — All medical, life and disability insurance plans of the Annuity Board the Southern Baptist Convention will change from the Aetna Life Insurance Company to the Prudential Insurance Company of America July 1. No benefit changes will occur.

The carrier change won't keep premium rates for the church medical plan from rising on the same day, but Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell said he hopes this will be a step to bring costs under control. July 1 rates will be announced later in May, he said.

An agreement to change carriers was reached May 1 when Annuity Board trustees met with Allen M. Haight, senior vice president, group department of Prudential.

"I am immensely pleased to establish a very promising relationship with one of the world's great insurance companies," Powell said. "The creativity with which they approached our problems gives us real hope for the future."

Prudential is uniquely qualified to

administer a program of our size and complexity."

Annual premium income for Annuity Board plans exceeds \$100 million for church and group insurance programs. While life and disability plans have flourished, the medical plans have struggled.

For three-and-a-half years the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan has suffered a drain on reserves as claims consistently exceeded premium dollars available. Caught in the same national phenomenon of rising medical costs, the Group Comprehensive Medical Plan had comparable experience until this year when it seems to have stabilized. There will be no mid-year rate increase in the group medical plan, Powell said.

"We saw our voluntary reserves in the church plan shrink by more than \$31 million since 1984 to about \$5 million at the end of March," said Harold D. Richardson, Annuity Board treasurer. "That did not mean we were almost broke. It just meant we

(Continued on page 5)

ACTS of Laurel chosen "affiliate of the year"

Two Mississippi affiliates were honored at the fifth annual American Christian Television System Awards Ceremony at Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, on May 17.

ACTS of Laurel took top honors as affiliate of the year and was recognized for best events coverage series for "Football '89."

The Lebanon ACTS Board of Hattiesburg was honored in the commercial public service announcement category for "The Nutcracker."

Other awards nominees from Mississippi included: Christian message, Rankin County ACTS, Brandon; commercial public service announcement, ACTS-14 of Jackson; religious series and events coverage special, Cable 6 of Hattiesburg; Christmas special, First Church, Jackson; and human interest special, ACTS of Laurel.

The Second Front Page

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Bush declines invitation to speak in New Orleans

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — President George Bush has declined an invitation to speak to the Southern Baptist Convention next month after some Baptist leaders disapproved that he hosted gay and lesbian leaders at an April White House ceremony.

SBC President Jerry Vines and a handful of Southern Baptist leaders reportedly discussed "disinviting" the president in a conference call May 10. But the SBC Committee on Order of Business, which is responsible for arranging the program for the annual convention, was not involved in the discussion nor immediately informed of Bush's decision.

"Conservative" leaders have been upset since Bush invited representatives of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force to join other minority activities at a White House ceremony April 24 to witness Bush's signing of new federal legislation requiring records on hate crimes.

Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., raised the gay issue with the White House and asked that Bush consider those objections in his decision whether or not to speak at the Southern Baptist Convention

June 12-14 in New Orleans, a Bush spokesman said.

"He wanted us to be aware of the fact... that some 'conservatives' might raise the (gay) issue," said Doug Wead, Bush's liaison to religious organizations. "He didn't want to see the President embarrassed or the meeting disrupted."

According to Wead, Vines also pointed out "some moderate and liberal Southern Baptists" were opposed to the President's speaking at the convention under any circumstances. Wead said the President declined the invitation — which the White House had sought — because of a schedule conflict.

But Wead acknowledged the gay dispute was part of the discussion. He said he sympathized with Southern Baptists upset about the presence of gays at the signing ceremony. "The concern was not just these homosexual leaders being invited to the White House, but some of these are anti-religious bigots," he explained.

Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, complained in a letter to Bush April 30, "The White House should not be

giving its sanction and implicit approval to such groups," Land wrote.

Land and a handful of other Baptist leaders reportedly discussed "disinviting" the President in a conference call with Vines May 10. Land would not say who took part in the discussion other than Vines.

But Land, who said he took part in the conference call at the invitation of Vines, said he told the SBC leaders he did not object to the President's addressing the SBC. "I made it clear to Jerry that I would not perceive an invitation to the president as in any way undercutting the CLC or our letter objecting to the presence of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force at the bill signing," Land told the Florida Baptist Witness, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Vines, who was in Memphis, Tenn., for a conference hosted by Bellevue Church where former SBC president Adrian Rogers is pastor, did not return telephone calls to inquire about the matter.

Ike Reighard, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, told the

(Continued on page 5)

Albania eases religion ban

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Religious oppression reportedly has been eased in Albania, the only country in the world to ban all faiths.

Already, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials are preparing for new opportunities that may develop in the Eastern European country.

The Albanian Communist Party's official newspaper, Zeri i Popullit, has reported the country's parliament adopted a number of reforms May 8, including one related to religious activity in the nation of 3.2 million people.

Under the new law, engaging in "religious propaganda" reportedly no longer is listed in the penal code as a crime against the state.

However, the newspaper reported that one of the authors of the reforms, Alex Luarasi, emphasized that no plans exist to reopen the mosques and church buildings closed after the communist government launched a sweeping effort to create a pure atheistic state in 1967.

Southern Baptist workers in Europe are monitoring developments in the country, said Keith Parker, who directs the Foreign Mission Board's work in Europe, "in the hopes that we can implement additional strategy."

As soon as opportunity permits, "We would want to give assistance to strengthen the churches in Albania

and to minister to the needs of the people," added Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. "We would want to honor their perseverance and to learn from their experiences."

The Foreign Mission Board currently provides \$30,000 a year to help fund Albanian-language broadcasts beamed toward an estimated 525,000 radio sets in Albania via a 1-million-watt Trans World Radio transmitter in France. The speaker is an Albanian Christian convert who formerly was jailed for his faith. His 15-minute broadcasts are aired seven days a week.

Just a few days ago, the broadcast received its first-ever letter from an evangelical believer in Albania, Parker noted.

"There definitely are evangelical Christian believers in Albania who have had a salvation experience," he added. "I have no idea of numbers. I have heard figures as low as 20 and as high as a few hundred."

Parker told of interviews with Albanians shown on German television May 10. One man was asked about belief in God. "Oh, I am a believing Christian," he replied, using a word denoting a true believer, not a token Christian.

"His eyes got soft and he said, 'I

really believe in Christ,'" Parker recounted. "Then suddenly you could see him realize that the camera was upon him." The commentator then explained that the man still was fearful of being persecuted, Parker said.

In 1967, when communist leaders ordered the closing of all places of worship, 2,169 mosques, churches, and convents were destroyed or converted to secular use. Some 70 percent of Albanians come from Muslim backgrounds.

Another 20 percent were affiliated with the Albanian Orthodox Church, and 10 percent were Roman Catholics. Protestants were only a tiny minority.

Under the former penal code, religious propaganda was listed as a form of "anti-state agitation" punishable by a jail term of three to 10 years.

According to one 1984 estimate, underground believers represent about 26 percent of the population — 21 percent are Muslim; 5 percent are Christian. The country is rich in religious tradition. It became predominantly Muslim during a series of mass conversions in the 17th and 18th centuries. Centuries earlier, however, the Apostle Paul had preached in Albania, then known as Illyricum, according to Chapter 15 in the New Testament book of Romans.

Toalston writes for FMB.

Montoya as "minority of one" makes "alternative nominations"

GRAVETTE, Ark. (BP) — A minority report containing 32 "alternate nominations" to the report of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations has been released by committee member David Montoya.

Montoya, the Arkansas clergy representative on the 66-member Committee on Nominations, announced following the March meeting of the group he would challenge some of the 132 people nominated to serve on the boards' trust of the 24 entities of the SBC.

The pastor of First Baptist Church of Gravette, Ark., said: "I decided to make this challenge while serving as a member of the Committee on Nominations. As a member, I heard and observed things which saddened my heart. Throughout the meeting I saw evidence of a political machine using the system to reward and control.

"The challenges I am making to the committee recommendations are based upon information obtained from individuals in places of leadership

throughout our convention who wish for nothing else than to see this political perversity stop.

"The individuals being challenged are either currently involved in the takeover tactics which have introduced precinct-type political machinery into our convention, or else have been openly supportive of such activity.

"There is no motive of retaliation or theological exclusion in these challenges. The purpose is to offer an opportunity to truly carry out the spirit of the Peace Committee's call for fairness and inclusiveness."

Montoya, who said he is acting as a minority of one, said he will try to present the report as a substitute motion to the report of the Committee on Nominations.

"I may be prevented from reaching a mike. If I cannot do this, I pray someone else will," he said.

He added if the chair rules the effort out of order, the convention can appeal the decision and call for a ballot.

If those approaches fail, Montoya

said the alternate nominations can be introduced from the floor.

Montoya said he had written SBC President Jerry Vines "and informed him of what I intend to do."

Vines told Baptist Press he had received a letter from Montoya. "I believe it would be inappropriate for me to discuss private correspondence in the public media," Vines said. "I assure Southern Baptists that with the help of the Lord and their prayers, I will make every effort to treat every messenger fairly and equitably under the rules."

Montoya's "alternative nominations" involving Mississippians include David Spencer, to be nominated to the Foreign Mission Board, to replace Randy Davis of Van Cleave, who was nominated to a full term; and W. W. Walley, to the Christian Life Commission, replacing Curtis W. Caine of Jackson, who was nominated to a second term. Spencer is pastor of First Church, Long Beach; Walley is a medical doctor and member of First Church, Waynesboro.

FMB names missionaries to Nicaragua

(Continued from page 3)

approved the proposed plan Feb. 14.

The Palmers' survey trip to Nicaragua came just days after the country's new president, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, took office April 25. Chamorro represents the National Opposition Union, or UNO, a 14-party coalition whose members embrace a wide range of political views. She defeated Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's president since 1984, in elections Feb. 25. Ortega leads the Sandinista National Liberation Front, which rose to power in 1979 after overthrowing dictator Anastasio Somoza.

During the visit, Palmer found Nicaraguans wondering what's ahead for their country. "I think there is a lot of apprehension as to what kind of changes the new government will make," he said. "The country is very polarized. There are people who have strong feelings on both sides of the issue."

Political polarization also exists among Nicaraguan Baptists, Palmer said. In light of that, "I think one of our greatest challenges will be to simply model a servant role that is devoid of political content," he said.

Palmer admitted he and his family have some fears about going to Nicaragua during this time of political change. "We feel very com-

fortable about our work in Honduras . . . so to leave that and go into a situation where there are a lot of unknowns was a difficult decision for us to make."

But, he added, "We still feel a sense of commitment and still feel a peace about our decision to go. We feel convinced that the Lord is guiding us in this direction. We are trusting him just as we did when he brought us to Honduras nine years ago."

During the trip, the Palmers said they were warmly received by Nicaraguan Baptists. "They are anxious for Southern Baptists to work with them again, and yet they were very sensitive to recognize that we are different from each other. But we choose to cooperate because of our unity as Baptists and as Christian believers," said Palmer.

No Southern Baptist missionaries have been assigned to Nicaragua since 1983, when the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua advised furloughing missionaries not to return because their physical safety could not be guaranteed. At that time, political tensions were mounting between the United States and Nicaragua following the 1979 Sandinista revolution there.

Since then the Foreign Mission Board has maintained contact with

Nicaraguan Baptist leaders and provided funds for disaster and hunger relief and literature ministry, Bruce said.

The new liaison relationship will be "mutually beneficial" for Southern Baptists and Nicaraguan Baptists, Tellez said. "Nicaraguan Baptists will be blessed by having the door open to the community of Southern Baptists in the United States," he said. "Southern Baptists will have an opportunity to carry on the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ in Nicaragua and to understand how we are living our faith in a context of social turmoil."

While in Nicaragua, the Palmers and board officials attended the April 29 dedication of a new building for Ebenezer Baptist Church on Corn Island.

The historic church, demolished by Hurricane Joan in 1988, was rebuilt by

Southern Baptist volunteers in January and February. Palmer helped on one of the construction teams.

When he returned to Honduras from that construction trip, Palmer said he encouraged others to pray about the possibility of Southern Baptists sending personnel there, "never thinking that it might be us."

Error in annuals relates to finances

The 1989 Mississippi Baptist Convention annuals recently mailed to churches have an error related to church finances. Listed as "property local debt" is "total amount spent on all local things." So it appears that many churches are in debt when in actuality they are not.

The error first came to light when a prospective pastor asked a search committee about the church's debt. "The committee members said the church was debt free and the Convention Board" was called to ask about the non-debt," said Tim Nicholas, director of communications, MBCB. The MBCB regrets this error."

Urgent! Help needed for Chile

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union needs two volunteers to go to Santiago, Chile, July 12-24, to teach VBS to the missionary children, according to Monica Keathley, consultant, state WMU. One volunteer is needed to work with preschool children, and one is needed to work with kindergarten through first graders. The cost for this trip is \$1,435.00.

Anyone who is interested is asked to call Monica Keathley at 968-3800 as soon as possible.

Brown-Davis meet cancelled

The Brown-Davis Conference scheduled for Saturday, May 26, at Mississippi Baptist Seminary has been cancelled.

The conference will be rescheduled later this year, according to Richard Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

It is not just as we take it,
This mystical world of ours,
Life's field will yield as we make it
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.
—Johann W. von Goethe, 1749-1832

Jerry Clower to speak at Brotherhood breakfast

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Comedian Jerry Clower will be the featured speaker at the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Breakfast at 7 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans.

Clower, an award-winning Christian entertainer, will present the National Jerry Clower Award to Howard Ammons of Mooresville, N.C. Ammons is the winner of the 1990 National High School Baptist Young Men's Missions Speak Out competition and will present his speech at the breakfast. The award was named for Clower, a former Royal Ambassador counselor, in 1984.

Royal Ambassadors is the Southern Baptist missions organization for boys.

A first at the breakfast will be the presentation of the International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders' Award of Merit. The Award of Merit is the highest RA leadership award given by the Brotherhood Commission. Twelve people were named to receive this award.

"The inauguration of the Award of Merit is an excellent opportunity to recognize outstanding RA leadership

both past and present," said James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president.

Receiving the Award of Merit are J. Ivyloy Bishop, Plainview, Texas; Eddie Hurt, Shawnee, Okla.; Bill Jackson, Asheboro, N.C.; Cotton Bridges, Plano, Texas; R.A. Carlton Jr., Satellite Beach, Fla.; Jesse Cunningham, Springfield, Mo.; Bob Foy, Mooresville, N.C.; John Henson, Checotah, Okla.; William Montague, Columbia, S.C.; Dave Prichard, Bethany, Okla.; Mike Rivers, Athens, Ga.; and Herb Weaver Jr., Houston.

Posthumous awards will be given in memory of Jim Bethea, Montgomery, Ala., and Norman Godfrey and Gledon McCullough of Memphis.

Award of Merit winners represent church, associational, state and national levels of work within RAs.

Tickets for the breakfast are available by mail until June by writing to SBC Brotherhood Breakfast Tickets, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, or until noon June 12 from the Missions Day Camp Registration area or the Brotherhood Commission Booth during the convention. Cost for the breakfast is \$12.50.

"Do work of evangelist" will be conference theme

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "Do the Work of an Evangelist" will be the theme of the 32nd annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 13 at 1:15 p.m. in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

The conference is among more than a dozen auxiliary meetings held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-14.

Conference speakers and their message topics will be Zig Ziglar, motivational speaker from Dallas, "Doing the Work of an Evangelist as a Layman;" Steve Hale, evangelist from Evansville, Ind., "Doing the Work of an Evangelist as an Evangelist;" Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., "Doing the Work of an Evangelist as a Pastor;" Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas, "Doing the Work of an Evangelist as a Preacher;" and Darrell Gilyard, pastor of Victory Church in Plano, Texas, "Just Do It."

In addition to the June 13 meeting, the conference will host two

"Afterglow" music sessions at the New Orleans Hyatt Regency Ballroom, from 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, and Wednesday, June 13, said Jay Strack, conference president and evangelist from Dallas.

The conference also has planned two evangelistic emphases in conjunction with the New Orleans meeting, he reported.

"First of all, (the conference) will circle New Orleans with key youth rallies . . . prior to the convention," Strack said. "It is our desire that hundreds of youth will be saved this year."

Rallies Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m., will be held at Lanier Church in Baton Rouge, La., and Woolmarket Church in Biloxi, Miss. Rallies Saturday, June 9, at 7 p.m. will be located at First Church of Kenner, La.; First Baptist Church of Ponchatoula, near Hammond, La.; First Church of Slidell, La.; and First Church of Houma, La.

"Secondly, at the conclusion of the Wednesday afternoon conference, there will be a mass witnessing opportunity in the French Quarter" of New Orleans, Strack added.

Women in ministry to focus on 'welcoming the stranger'

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "Welcoming the Stranger . . . Sojourners in the Fellowship of God" will be the theme for the eighth annual meeting of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry June 9-10 at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans.

The theme expresses the concept of hospitality, noted Betty Winstead McGary, president of the organization and minister to adults at South Main Church, Houston.

"We have been strangers in a familiar land, and now we want to offer welcome to other weary sojourners, as welcome has been offered to us," McGary explained.

The conference will be held on a Saturday and Sunday prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-14. The SBWIM meeting will feature

worship, workshops, seminars, a riverboat dinner, and general business sessions.

Program personalities will include Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Katrina and Greg Pennington, ministers at Northwest Church in Ardmore, Okla.; and Roger Paynter, senior minister, Northminster Church, Jackson, Miss. Music will be provided by Agape, the women's ensemble of South Main Church in Houston, and the chancel choir from Northminster Church in Jackson, Miss.

A Sunday morning worship service, titled "An Invitation to the Table," will be a communion service celebrating the inclusiveness of the Christian

(Continued on page 5)



William Stewart accepts an honorary doctor of divinity degree from William Carey College and Mrs. Ollie Thomas accepts for her late husband, John D. Thomas, the honorary doctor of business administration degree.

Carey awards doctorates

Two Baptist supporters of Christian higher education, William S. Stewart Sr. of Eupora and the late John D. Thomas of Hattiesburg, were awarded honorary degrees during commencement exercises at William Carey College on May 12.

Stewart, who received a doctor of divinity degree, is a former chairman of the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Born in Gillsburg, Miss., Stewart earned the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has served the denomination as Baptist Student Union director at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and as member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, member of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees, and moderator of the Webster County Association. He is pastor of First Church, Eupora.

Thomas, Hattiesburg businessman

who died April 1, 1990, of cancer, was posthumously awarded the honorary doctor of business administration degree.

Thomas (1919-1990), business, civic, cultural, and denominational leader, was a member of the William Carey College Board of Trustees for 16 years. Thomas was instrumental in the successful completion of the One Million Dollar Campaign for endowment. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the Mississippi Mission and served his local church, First Church, Hattiesburg, as a deacon.

He and his wife of 49 years, Ollie Thomas, were owners and operators of Gibson's Discount Stores in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. A native of Alabama, he was a graduate of Berry College in Rome, Ga. The Thomas Business Building on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College was named for the Thomases.

Bush declines invitation . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Witness May 14 he was unaware of the conference call, the gay-rights dispute, or the president's decision to decline.

Initially Reighard said May 14 the committee was still awaiting an answer from the White House. However, after checking with Vines, who was making the arrangements, Reighard said later in the day that Bush had declined a few days earlier.

Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga., said he was not sure why the President would cancel after Bush himself initiated the idea of speaking at the SBC, but he denied reports that Bush actually was "disinvited" by SBC leaders. "I have not talked to anyone in our group (committee) about that situation," he said. "I'm relying on information I received from the president of the convention. I would be very much surprised if that's what happened."

The invitation to Bush was issued by Reighard's committee several weeks ago after Wead informed Reighard and Vines, an ex officio member of the committee, of the President's desire to address Southern Baptists.

"I informally encouraged them to have the President in this year," Wead told the Witness. He said the President had schedule conflicts on two days of the three-day SBC meeting — Tuesday, June 12, and Thursday, June 14. The committee's preference, according to Reighard and Wead, was June 14, but Bush "has a meeting with a head of state that very day," Wead said.

However, the President could have addressed Southern Baptists on Wednesday, June 13, Wead said. Although the Committee on Order of Business was not aware of the Wednesday possibility, Reighard said, it wouldn't have worked out. "Thurs-

day really was the only option," he said May 17. "We didn't feel like it would be fair to move business sessions and things to Thursday to make room for the President."

Wead said Vines was informed that Bush had declined the invitation "probably Friday," May 11. "President Vines would have welcomed the President and wanted him there," Wead said. But given the schedule conflicts and the gay dispute, Wead added, Vines considered the President's decision "for the best."

"I'm disappointed that it didn't work out," the Bush aide said. "Some felt it was controversial (for the President to speak at the SBC), but I feel it was more controversial to invite gay leaders to the White House."

The decision to host gay activists at the bill-signing ceremony was not unanimous among the White House staff, Wead said.

The decision "very poorly served the President," he said.

Land, in his April 30 letter to Bush, said his opposition to the presence of gays at the ceremony had nothing to do with the legislation, which was aimed at curbing hate crimes. "Such acts of violence against people are wrong," Land wrote. "It is quite another matter, however, for the President of the United States to invite leaders of homosexual and lesbian groups to be invited guests at an official White House ceremony precisely because they represent such groups."

"Such an action provides an implicit White House approbation of their lifestyle and it is something no previous administration has done."

Land told the Witness he is not concerned that his criticism of Bush, and his call for Baptists to write letters of protest, might alienate Southern Bap-

tists from the political mainstream.

"Baptist conviction and beliefs are that the President made a grave mistake," he said. "My job was to make sure that the policymakers . . . were aware of how upset Southern Baptists were going to be at this kind of quasi-recognition. My main concern was to make sure the President didn't do it again, and the way to make sure the President doesn't do it again is for him to get buckets of letters from Southern Baptists that are upset. And I think he will."

Still, Land said, Bush's invitation to speak at the SBC is a separate issue. "If the President wants to come and share his heart and mind with Southern Baptists, he ought to be able to do it," he said.

Reighard said his committee had heard "some positive and some negative" from Southern Baptists about the initial invitation to Bush. "The main concern is he's not a Southern Baptist," Reighard said. "But if we get to that point, where only Southern Baptists can speak to us, even Jesus couldn't speak."

Reighard said the White House asked that a videotaped message from the President be shown in place of the speech. But Reighard said problems with the video projection system at the Louisiana Superdome will prevent that. "There probably will just be a letter (from Bush) now," he said.

Greg Warner is associate editor of The Florida Baptist Witness.

Annuity insurance will move to Prudential

(Continued from page 3)
were running out of money to buy down premium increases. We have never been in danger of being unable to pay claims."

The church medical plan, which has more than 23,000 participants and 80,000 insured people, has suffered large claims/premium imbalance since 1987. The plan showed a \$2 million loss in the first three months of 1990 despite an aggregate premium increase of 20 percent on Jan. 1, Richardson told trustees in a first-quarter report.

On March 14, the day before Powell formally was installed as president, the executive committee of the board of trustees met with senior executives of the Annuity Board to hear a report that had been months in the making.

After gathering several independent consultant reports, the staff insurance committee concluded there were four basic options for dealing with the problems of the church plan:

- Turn the plan over to Aetna under provisions of the contract;
- Reunderwrite and segregate the unhealthy into a separate risk pool where their premiums would be much higher and their benefits less;
- Find a new approach to providing insurance benefits; or — Close the plan.

Because of reserve levels, something had to be done at mid-year. All participants and churches were told in the fall of 1989 that a July 1, 1990, premium increase would be likely.

Knowing that closing the plan would leave some 80,000 people in 23,000 families searching for individual in-

surance, the trustees said, "Save the plan." That order narrowed the options to three.

Staff noted that turning the plan over to the carrier was unattractive because that would surrender too much control, including the right to set premiums.

Several companies were invited to submit proposals.

"We began to hear what we wanted to hear from Prudential representatives," said John L. Dudley, director of the insurance services division. "They came to the table with a 'can do' optimism and praise of what we've been trying to do," he said.

"What Southern Baptists must recognize," said Powell, "is that the Annuity Board has no money for insurance claims except the premiums that are paid. Not one cent of retirement contributions or earnings can ever be used for medical claims. Each program stands squarely on its own feet."

The Annuity Board will continue to receive and hold all premiums, transferring money periodically to the Prudential to reimburse for claims and to pay for services. The Prudential, for a fee, will accept a graduated scale of risk to ensure the ability of the Annuity Board to meet its claims obligations.

"We anticipate some continued erosion of reserves in 1990," said Richardson. "But we and Prudential are confident that the July 1 rate increase and some highly creative plan design and marketing work will find us poised for an optimistic view of 1991 and the years following."

Dudley said Prudential will

establish a dedicated claims unit in Louisville, Ky., that will service only Annuity Board participants. "The present Louisville unit is considered an industry model for efficiency and good customer relations," Dudley said.

"An enormous task of communication faces us," Dudley said. "We hope for a smooth transition with a minimum of inconvenience to participants."

"There will be no plan changes July 1. No one will lose any deductible or coinsurance credits. We anticipate a completely professional and cooperative transfer of claims data from Aetna to Prudential. Our relations with Aetna are cordial and mutually respectful. They will work closely with us to serve our participants in the finest tradition of that good company."

Aetna will continue to underwrite the new property and casualty products offered through the Annuity Board subsidiary, Southern Baptist Convention Managing General Agency, Inc., said Powell.

Dudley said, "Medical plan participants don't need to do a thing about the July 1 change of carriers. We'll do it all. New identification cards will be printed and mailed as soon as possible. All participants will be given a new Prudential toll-free number to use on July 1. Bills will continue to be mailed by the Annuity Board and payment of premiums will be at the same address."

Dudley added that the date of any medical service is not relevant to which carrier pays the claim. "Even if the service was in January," said

Dudley, "if the claim is filed July 1 or later, it will go to Prudential."

Applications or claims in process will be handled whether on Aetna or Prudential forms, Dudley added. Claims under review on July 1 will be transferred to Prudential for completion.

There will be no change in procedures for the Mail Service Prescription Drug Program.

The Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division has led an effort to place chaplains in United Auto Workers plants across the country. By the end of last year 83 UAW locals had taken steps to begin a chaplaincy program.

Women

(Continued from page 4)
gospel. As a symbol of inclusiveness, the service will feature breads from around the world.

Workshop topics will be "Basic Opportunities for Ministry," "Coping with Your Anger," "Keepers of the Fire," "Conflict Management and Resolution," "Creative Worship Planning," "Women in the 1990s," "Joining the Kingdom: Journeys in the Spiritual Life," and "Personality Types and Leadership Styles."

Registration for the meeting costs \$25. The riverboat dinner party costs \$15 with registration and \$25 without registration.

For registration information, call McGary at (713) 529-4167, Pam Tanner at (713) 980-4431 or Nancy Campbell at (713) 526-1675.



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An open letter to President Vines

Dear Dr. Vines:

I write as a long-time Baptist layman with service in and to our Southern Baptist churches, associations, and conventions, culminating in my joy of serving with you last year on the SBC Executive Committee.



Professionally, I have represented our churches and agencies in the courts concerning First Amendment issues. As a member of the Executive Committee for eight years during the past decade, I served on various study committees concerning how best to present to Washington our beliefs on separation of church and state and was recognized and granted by you the opportunity to speak on this matter during the 1989 SBC. I wish to advise you that I am compelled to make the following motions during the report of the Executive Committee:

1. Upon Recommendation 1, since its first Program Statement adopted by the 1961 SBC, the primary assignment of the Christian Life Commission has been morality and social ethics, which the CLC has carefully followed; and since by subsequent action the relationships with other Baptist entities have been clearly defined; and since Recommendation #1 would alter this distinction of assignment which the convention has faithfully followed for these many years; I propose to strike Recommendation #1 and substitute in lieu thereof the following motion: That at this time, the Program Statement of the CLC remain as previously assigned by the SBC and that the CLC be congratulated for its work and its trustees directed to emphasize the presentation of Southern Baptist insights on

morality and social ethics to our government in Washington, D.C.

2. Upon Recommendation 3, since the proposed 1990-1991 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget is 1.89 percent greater than the current year, I move that the proposed 1990-1991 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget be amended to reflect a 1.89 percent budget increase over the 1989-1990 budget for the BJC, PAC, and CLC, which is in line with the increase granted the other SBC entities. If adopted, this would accordingly adjust the Operating Budget for 1990-1991.

This motion and amendment support the traditional Baptist position on the separation of church and state rather than flowing with the present attempt to shift our emphasis from separation to accommodation on religious liberty issues such as school vouchers, religious entanglement in government, and governmental control of church affairs.

These are not proposed as arguments for or against any Baptist entity, but rather:

(a) As actions consistent with the prior actions of the SBC in 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989;

(b) As actions consistent with retaining in Washington the most effective governmental influencer, as proven in our lifetime, for sustaining the separation of church and state;

(c) As the most efficient use of Cooperative Program funds, having a single assignment, established office, and experienced staff which is sought after on First Amendment issues by governmental sources in Washington; and

(d) Finally, to make us aware that the Executive Committee is recommending a shift away from the convention's traditional and long-declared emphasis on separation of church and state to accommodation of religion by the state.

The proposed motion and amendment are presented by this open letter in order to provide the messengers the opportunity to study and prayerfully consider the contemplated departure from our traditional position on separation of church and state. Further, I wanted to inform you and Barry McCarty of the form of these proposals so that you may advise if the form or method flaws the intent.

All Southern Baptists are depending upon your gracious spirit and your commitment to honor Christ by allowing full access to all possible information so that as Baptists with the facts we will, under God's leadership, make the right decisions.

I appreciate any response so that I can present the motion and amendment in the proper manner.

Faithfully yours,
Frank C. Ingraham

In an open letter to Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines, Frank Ingraham, a Nashville lawyer, has announced his intention of making a motion at the convention to amend the convention's budget which, at this point, would remove almost all of the funding for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Ingraham was a member of the SBC Executive Committee for eight years, rotating off of the committee with the convention in Las Vegas last year.

The Cooperative Program budget for this year for the Baptist Joint Committee is \$391,796. The proposed budget for next year would drop the figure to \$50,000. The drop of \$341,796 would be 87.24 percent less than this year's budget figure.

In the proposed budget the Christian Life Commission would get an increase of \$365,328, or 40.7 percent, to a total of \$1,262,836; and the Public Affairs Committee would get an increase of \$1,296, or 5.47 percent, to a total of \$25,000.

Ingraham's open letter to Vines follows:

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Thanks for remembering

Editor:

We have been overwhelmed with the generosity and thoughtfulness of Mississippi Baptists in response to the death of our sister, Edwina Robinson.

The love for Edwina has been shown through cards, flowers, food, memorial gifts, and many other ways.

Edwina loved Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, Camp Garaywa, and the work of the entire Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She would be so pleased to know of the outpouring of affection which has been shown.

Our loss is made more bearable because we have been so vividly reminded of the love of our sister by Mississippi Baptists. Thank you so much.

Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Robinson,
Jackson
Mr. Gayle Robinson, Dallas

Fears for Southern

Editor:

It is hard for me to explain how I felt when I saw the headline in the Baptist Record... "Conservatives take control of Southern Seminary Board." The only other time I had feelings like that was when I received an early morning phone call from Atlanta that my grandfather had died. I remember the empty and lonely feelings I had at that moment. The headline resur-

rected those feelings.

The Bible talks some about what makes God nauseous. I think he is utterly sickened by what's going on in our convention. My theological (not political!) leanings would align me as a "moderate" which means I am disturbed that the "conservatives" have "taken control" of the Southern Seminary Board. Yet, this is not what gave me those empty feelings when I saw the headline.

Those feelings came because they were talking about my seminary. It seems that somebody feels there are major problems at Southern Seminary, just like somebody thought there were major problems at Southeastern Seminary. Southeastern has sustained wounds that probably will never heal. I don't want the same infection to destroy Southern.

I graduated from Southern in 1981 after three of the best years of my life. My mind was stretched and challenged by men like E. Glenn Hinson, Paul Simmons, and Glen Stassen. The highlight of my day was hearing each one of those men pray before class began. Oftentimes after they would pray I would find myself weeping, moved to tears by their love of God and concern for people.

Now these men and my seminary are being raked over hot coals mainly by people who have never experienced their fine teaching nor sat under the Southern beech trees and felt the overwhelming presence of God.

It is sad that over the last decade

Southern Baptists have lost their vision by being destroyed by nothing more than a political power struggle. We've gone from Bold Mission Thrust to Bold Mission Rust.

There was a song many years ago by Gary Paxton called "I Wonder If God Cries." I think he does. I think he is. My prayer for us as Southern Baptists is that we can help God out of his depression before it is too late.

Scott Bebout
Associate Pastor in Youth
FBC, Meridian

Thanks for heritage

Editor:

Most anytime you read the "Just for the Record" section of the Baptist Record you will see the bright faces of children who have achieved some recognition in Sunday School, GAs, or RAs. Sometimes there will be a picture of a youth group returning from a mission trip. Recently, while reading and looking at this section of the paper, I thought about my growing up as a Mississippi Baptist; and I thought I should stop and say "thank you" to some important people.

"Thanks" to all the hard working Sunday School workers at First Church in Yazoo City, and my pastor, James Yates, who taught me God's Word and helped lead me to make Christ my Savior. Thanks to the WMU and lay leadership who thought it was important to have "real live missionaries" speaking at the church so that young people like myself could catch a vision of missions.

"Thanks," Mississippi Baptists, for providing Mississippi College, which not only gave me an education but helped me through the BSU to discover myself and my call to missions (not to mention finding my wife!).

"Thanks" to Anding Church, in

Yazoo County and Liberty and Bethlehem Baptist churches in Scott County that helped me learn how to pastor. "Thanks" to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff for being such encouragers to Cynthia and me. Thanks for providing the foundation for our lives so that we could join the ranks of other Mississippians who are proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ around the world.

I close with a word of encouragement. When you have to ask yourself if it is worth it to study that Sunday School lesson or spend hours preparing for that children's or youth event is it worth tithing and supporting the Cooperative Program? is it worth supporting higher education? is it worth doing all the things that Mississippi Baptists do? look into the bright-eyed faces of our children and youth and there will be only one answer to that question: "Yes, it is worth whatever sacrifice all of us have to make for them."

God bless you, Mississippi Baptists, and thank you for all you have done in my life! Keep praying, keep working, and keep looking up.

In Christ,
Tom Martin
Missionary to Bolivia

Cynthia Martin worked at the Baptist Building during some of the years mentioned above. — Editor

Insight and candor

Editor:

Your editorial, "Sad New Chapters," in the April 19 issue of the Baptist Record, was excellent.

I appreciate your insight and candor. God bless.

Joe H. Courson,
executive director
Gulf Stream Association
Plantation, Fla.

Senior adult corner

Editor:

It is perhaps past time for somebody to express appreciation for the Senior Adult Corner and your interest in senior adult work in Mississippi. On behalf of the thousands of senior adults in the churches and the many hundreds who take advantage of the opportunity to publicize their senior adult activities, I want to thank you for your concern and your interest. May God continue to bless and use you in a great way as you edit our good paper.

J. Clark Hensley
Sr. Adult Contract Consultant
MBCB

Correct address

Editor:

We are not sure why, but evidently the Foreign Mission Board sent you a wrong address for us. The address (listed in the April 5 issue of the Baptist Record) is the address of another missionary family. We informed them months ago of our address-to-be, but evidently there was a mixup. But, since we do not really live near this other missionary family, it is somewhat of an inconvenience (to them and to us) to have our mail sent to their home. Would you mind reprinting our address as follows?

Tom and Bonnie Hearon
C. P. 100.581
24,000 Niteroi, RJ
Brazil

Thanks very much. We really appreciate receiving the Baptist Record. Your emphasis on missions is great, as is your ability to share Baptist news there in Mississippi and the U.S.

Bonnie Hearon
Brazil



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, May 24, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Faces in Moscow . . .



Marina Kiseljova

Rain began to spatter the sidewalk as the three of us left the Kosmos Hotel at dusk in Moscow. From a little knot of men and boys at the bottom of the hill, a young man separated himself and gestured toward his taxi, parked at the curb.

"You speak English?" Sandra asked.

He nodded.

Lola showed him the address of the Novosty Press Agency near Gorky Park. "Yes, yes, Gorky Park!" he said.

I followed the other two women into the back seat of the cab. Four or five little boys continued to stand beside me, holding the door open.

I'd had nothing to eat or drink since breakfast except a cup of hot chocolate at the American Embassy. I had missed lunch by accident and skipped dinner on purpose in order to go on this jaunt to meet a woman editor who had promised to take me to the home of a Baptist family. I had a precious Granola bar in my purse and was clutching a small can of

grapefruit juice that I'd brought all the way from Jackson.

"Juice! American juice!" they tried their best to trade me a pin for it — a pin with a red star and the head of Lenin on it. I wanted to be their friend, but my thirst won. I selfishly shook my head, pulled the door shut, and took a long gulp. The disappointment in those boys' eyes haunts me still.

Right away we discovered that our driver might know 10 or 15 English words. At our every question or statement, his brown eyes would look up, full of puzzlement, to the rear view mirror, or he'd run his hand across his blonde hair in a gesture of bewilderment. I handed him a New Testament, the only thing I had in his language; the Cyrillic letters on the cover quickly drew his interest. He began to flip through it as he drove.

"No, not now!" Lola quickly admonished. "Drive now. Read later!"

"Gorky Park," he said at the park entrance, two white columns supporting an iron grillwork gate that was closed.

"Gorky Park," he repeated. But we kept sitting in the cab. It took a lot of hand signals and a telephone call, but we finally got him to deliver us to the right place.

Marina Kiseljova, an editor of Moscow Business, was standing beside her car, under an umbrella, in the cold rain. Though she'd been waiting over an hour, she greeted us, in English, with warmth.

She had arranged for us to visit a Baptist family, as well as two artists at their business firm. Since we were so late, we would now have time for only one visit. She chose the artists, to my disappointment.

Many women I had seen that day were shabbily dressed, sweeping streets or doing other hard jobs. Marina, who said her friends call her Mashe, represented the well-to-do, well-educated Russian woman at the other end of the scale. When, later, she removed her leather topcoat and unwound a bright blue scarf from her throat, I saw that she was wearing an

expensive-looking aqua-colored wool knit sweater dress that reflected the tint of green in her large blue eyes. Her face was framed with a wealth of medium length black hair.

She said she had gone into journalism because her father was a journalist. However, it had not been easy for her to find a job in it, even though she had a university degree in journalism. She had worked two years for a press agency and six years in writing and editing. Moscow Business, she said, was the first Russian magazine to use the word "business" in its title. Produced in a joint venture with the Finnish, it publishes three editions — Russian, English, and Finnish.

Her mother, an English teacher, has been translating the works of William Faulkner. "My husband left today for Belgium," Mashe said. "He's correspondent for the top-rated program of Soviet TV: TIME. While he was in the Army, he served in Afghanistan and Iran."

With her next statement she revealed her age: "I married at age 18 and have been married for 15 years." Her 6-year-old son, Alexis, likes music, soccer, and climbing trees.

Her favorite dish is leg of lamb, with garlic — and yes, she cooks their meals herself. "But please understand that this is a dish not enjoyed by the average Russian family. It is very expensive and most could not afford it."

When asked, "What about religion?" she said, "The people are turning to religion. They are studying the Bible more and teaching it to their children."

"What about yourself?"

"That's too personal."

Immediately, though, she began to talk of her visit to Jerusalem and her memories of walking along the Via Dolorosa.

When, after we had interviewed the artists, Mashe drove us back to our hotel, we said good night, and I added, "See you in Jerusalem!" I had a feeling she knew I meant the New Jerusalem.



Scott

family.

Just as we see a trend in changing roles as to dress and manners, we are also seeing roles change in spiritual leadership. The scriptures are clear on the fact that men are to be the spiritual leaders in the home. But in many, if not most, cases this role has been rejected; thus the wife has had no choice but to assume it. This causes the family to be thrown into confusion. Leadership is shifted to the wife and mother; consequently, the children don't know how to deal with it.

Men, ours is a tremendous opportunity and yet a grave responsibility. May the Lord help us to assume our God-given role and lead our families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This may well be the greatest opportunity we have in bringing a real spiritual revival to our nation.

Scott is pastor, First, Olive Branch.

Camille Basden wins scholarship in nine year Bible drill tournament

Camille Basden is recipient of a scholarship, after participation in a nine year Bible drill scholarship tournament. Camille, a senior at Brandon High School, is the daughter of Dennis and Kay Basden. She participated in children and youth Bible drills for a total of nine years.

Camille has been awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to the Mississippi Baptist college of her choice. She has chosen Mississippi College, where she plans a major in marketing and a minor in public relations. She and her parents are members of Paul Truitt Church, Pearl.

The nine year Bible drill scholarship tournament is held each year on the same day as the youth Bible drill selection tournament. All nine year Bible drill participants are encouraged to participate in a final drill for a \$500.00 scholarship for the Mississippi Baptist college of their choice. The Bible Drill brochure for 1991 will be available in August, according to Robin Nichols, consultant, Discipleship Training Department.



Basden

Friends come to support of Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Colleagues and former students of the Southern Seminary faculty expressed support for the professors in early May.

The statements of support were sent from the national officers of the Louisville, Ky., seminary's Alumni Association and the faculty at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

The support came on the heels of a late-April trustee meeting in which trustees received a 16-page article critical of President Roy L. Honeycutt and five professors, set a policy to allow students to use tape recorders in classes and approved resolutions critical of two professors.

A letter from the Alumni Association officers is signed by Floyd F. Roebuck, pastor of First Church of Rome, Ga., and president of the association; Bob S. Terry, editor of Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention in Jefferson City, president-elect; and G. Todd Wilson, pastor of Weatherly Heights Church in Huntsville, Ala., past-

president. Honeycutt read the letter in chapel May 8.

"We . . . want to thank you for investing your lives in the thousands of students whom you have taught across the years," the letter states. "You have lifted us so we can reach toward God with our whole hearts. You have lifted us so we can reach toward a lost world with the love of Jesus Christ."

You have lifted us so we can minister to God's people as servant leaders. We will forever be grateful for the heights to which you have lifted us and for your investment in our lives."

The letter expresses pain over the recent developments at the seminary and understanding for the faculty's anxiety about the future.

"Be assured that those of us who are indebted to you and to Southern Seminary for lifting us to new heights of ministry will openly contend for the great truths of the Bible which we learned on the campus in Louisville," it says. "We will attempt to honor our God, our seminary, and our teachers by ministering with integrity, by

teaching and preaching the truth of the Bible even when it is not popular in secular or ecclesiastical circles. We will attempt to be true to the heritage which you taught us of fearing God but not man."

The letter also pledges prayer on behalf of the faculty, both individually and collectively: "We are praying that you will be sustained by God's love in the midst of doubts and suspicion; that you will be guided by God's wisdom at a time when it would be easy to give in to one's pain and anger; and that God's spirit will empower you to minister with integrity in the midst of anxiety and confusion."

"We are convinced that the hope and heritage embodied in Southern Seminary and for which you have invested your life ultimately will be victorious because that hope and heritage is of God and it is in God alone that we place our hope, both now and for eternity."

"In II Corinthians 5, (the Apostle) Paul wrote that in all things we are more than conquerors. May God give

you such a spirit in these days."

The statement from the Southeastern Seminary faculty comes from a group which has had disagreements with its own trustee board for much of the past two and one-half years. It says the Southeastern faculty "is compelled by conscience to express its solidarity with the faculty of its sister institution."

"Our sense of solidarity is based on the fact that the Southeastern Seminary faculty was established by faculty from Southern Seminary, that many of our faculty are Southern Seminary graduates, that our fate as theological teachers in the Southern Baptist Convention is intertwined and that we share a common mission to prepare men and women for Christian ministry," it notes.

"We view with grave concern actions by the Southern Seminary board of trustees to threaten the tenure of faculty members on the basis of theological norms foreign to the Abstract of Principles, the school's

historic doctrinal standard; to silence faculty members from making statements critical of leaders and programs of the Southern Baptist Convention; and to intrude into the domain of the classroom by giving students license to tape record, even when doing so is contrary to the best judgment of the professor."

The trustee actions are "contrary to our Baptist heritage of the liberty of conscience" as defined by Article XVIII of the Abstract, which says, "God alone is Lord of the conscience; and he hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to his word, or not contained in it," the statement notes.

"Moreover, these actions are specifically contrary to the standards of academic freedom to which accredited theological schools in this country subscribe. Finally, these actions threaten the faculty's proper role as a prophetic voice in the denomination and the larger church."

capsules

So. Baptists will teach in Romania

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — A six-member team of Southern Baptists will spend 11 days in Romania during May and June teaching in a program called "School of the Prophets."

They will teach a series of courses on the Bible and ministry to about 70 Baptists, some of whom may enter the ministry to meet Romanian Baptists' pressing need for pastors, said Southern Baptist missionary Earl Martin.

Martin heads the Institute of Missions and Evangelism at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The Southern Baptist team will teach classes in the cities of Arad, Oradea, and Bucharest between May 28 and June 8. The teachers are Martin; Robert Cochran, a Southern Baptist missionary to Belgium; and Bob Ellis, Tommy Lea, Paul Stevens, and Jim Spivey, all faculty members at Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Kentucky elects Knox editor

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP) — Marv Knox has been elected by the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board as editor of the *Western Recorder*, newsjournal of the KBC.

Knox, 33, will assume the editorship June 1. He has been feature editor at Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1986.

Knox was elected unanimously May 7 at Cedarvale Baptist Assembly, near Bagdad, Ky., upon unanimous recommendation of the 12-member board of directors of the *Western Recorder*.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, the son of a Southern Baptist minister, Knox is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Knox will succeed Jack D. Sanford as editor. Sanford became editor July 1, 1984, following the retirement of C.R. Daley, who served 27 years. Sanford died May 24, 1989.

Budget still ahead

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' unified budget remains 1.45 percent ahead of last year's pace after seven months of the current fiscal year.

The national Cooperative Program received \$11,667,118 in April, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The April total brought year-to-date receipts to \$82,539,644, Bennett said. That is \$1,177,881, or 1.45 percent, more than the Cooperative Program took in during the first seven months of 1988-89, he said.

The gain did not keep pace with inflation, which reached 6.5 percent at the end of the first quarter of 1990, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

April receipts dropped \$1,626,759, or 12.24 percent, below receipts for April 1989, the best April in the Cooperative Program's 65-year history.

B'hood extends St. Croix project

FREDERIKSTED, St. Croix (BP) — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission will extend its commitment to reroof homes destroyed by Hurricane Hugo through July 31, said James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president.

After a recent visit to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Smith determined the task of reroofing 100 homes in six weeks is too great because of the extensive damage and the type of construction required to rehabilitate the homes.

Peyote case rehearing urged

WASHINGTON (BP) — A diverse coalition of religious and civil liberties organizations, joined by 55 constitutional law scholars, has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider its recent decision in a dispute over whether the First Amendment protects the religious use of the drug peyote.

"These individuals and organizations agree on very little," said Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "They all agree, however, that (this) decision is disastrous for the free exercise of religion."

In Employment Division of Oregon v. Smith, the Supreme Court held a state not only can prohibit the religious use of peyote but also can deny unemployment compensation to individuals dismissed from their jobs for using the drug.

Acknowledging the petition for rehearing of Smith is a long shot, Thomas — who moderated a news conference to announce the filing of the petition May 10 — called it "our only shot."

Key leader seminar planned

A key leader seminar on evangelism will take place June 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baptist Building in Jackson. Target audience will be pastors, directors of missions, associational evangelism directors, and church staffers.

Seminar leader will be Bob Hamblin, director of the L.D. Hancock Foundation in Tupelo. He is former evangelism director of the Home Mission Board and is former pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Topics of study during the seminar include evangelism and study, the model evangelistic church, equipping the saints, evangelism in word and deed, the "how to" in evangelism, and evangelism in the 90s.

Cost is \$10 for lunch and materials. For associational evangelism directors, the fee is waived. To register, write Guy Henderson, evangelism director, key leader seminar, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Inlow elected

ATLANTA (BP) — Robert Inlow, a real estate broker and consultant from Dallas, has been named director-elect of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church loans division.

Homecomings

County Line Church, State Line, (Wayne): 100th anniversary celebration, May 27, 10:45 a.m.; Mitchell Smith, pastor, First Church, Clara, speaker; potluck lunch at noon; singing in the afternoon by the Brown Family Gospel Singers, Runnelstown; old-fashioned apparel to be worn; Thomas Balch, pastor.

You never realize what a good memory you have until you try to forget something.

SBC requests resolutions in advance

NASHVILLE (BP) — Mark Corts, chairman of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee, has asked messengers to send him advance copies of resolutions they plan to submit during the annual convention meeting June 12-14 in New Orleans.

Corts, pastor of Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., said the committee will meet Friday, June 9, in New Orleans, for a get-acquainted and orientation session and Saturday, June 10, to review advance copies of resolutions.

"Having copies of resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give them more careful consideration," said Corts, who was appointed by SBC President Jerry Vines to chair the 10-member committee.

Corts said resolutions should be mailed to his attention at Calvary Baptist Church, 5000 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104.

He emphasized that messengers who send advance copies of resolutions to the committee also must submit them on the first day of the convention. Committee representatives will be at a table near the platform in the Louisiana Superdome to receive resolutions during business sessions on Tuesday, June 14. Titles of proposed resolutions then will be read into the convention record by a convention officer and forwarded to the committee for consideration.

In addition to Corts, Vines named the 1989 Resolutions Committee chairman, Mark Coppenger, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, to serve on the committee.

According to SBC bylaw, the Resolutions Committee must include three members of the SBC Executive Committee. They are Russell Bush, a retired dentist and pastor from Hattiesburg, Miss.; Paul House, assistant professor of religion at Taylor University in Upland, Ind.; and Miriam Kibelbeck, a homemaker from Port Charlotte, Fla.

Carey to serve dessert in N.O.

The William Carey College Alumni Association will sponsor a Dessert Fellowship for alumni attending the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. The get-together will be held at the Hyatt Regency after the Tuesday night session, 9:30 p.m., June 12. Tickets may be picked up at the college booth during Monday and Tuesday of the convention or information can be obtained from Donna Wheeler, 582-6167.

So much unhappiness, it seems to me, is due to nerves; and bad nerves are the result of having nothing to do, or doing a thing badly, unsuccessfully or incompetently. Of all the unhappy people in the world, the unhappiest are those who have not found something they want to do. True happiness comes to him who does his work well, followed by a relaxing and refreshing period of rest. True happiness comes from the right amount of work for the day. — Lin Yutang

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Revival dates

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Johnson Creek Church, State Line (Greene): May 27-June 1; James T. Harrison, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Voncille Brewer, State Line, music leader; services nightly; Thomas Greene, supply preacher.

Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst (Copiah): spring revival, May 27-May 30; beginning with homecoming on

Sunday, May 27, at 11 a.m., with covered dish dinner at noon in the Fellowship Hall, and followed by sacred music concert; Harold McLendon, pastor of Gallman Church, Gallman, guest evangelist; Hubert Greer, music evangelist, Brookhaven to direct the music; Millard Mackey, pastor.

Homecomings

Thornhill Church (Rankin): homecoming on May 27; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship service at 11 a.m.; dinner on the ground. The Voices of Praise to be there for a 1 p.m. gospel singing; Rudy James, pastor.

Friendship Church, Brookhaven: homecoming, May 27; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship service at 11 a.m.; old-fashioned, "dinner on the ground" at noon, followed by an afternoon service; Roy Humphrey, pastor of Vieux Carre Church, New Orleans, guest speaker for both services; Harold Luther Smith, in charge of music; Wiley Reid, pastor; all contributions made May 27 to go to the church cemetery fund.

Duffee Church, Little Rock (Newton): May 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; W. L. (Bill) Stroud, Forest, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Disciples Quartet, Meridian, guest singers; Steve Avera, pastor.

Johnson Creek Church, State Line (Greene): May 27; homecoming; James T. Harrison, Mobile, Ala., former pastor, guest speaker for 11 a.m. service; lunch in fellowship hall; 1:45 singing, featuring groups from other churches; Thomas Greene, supply preacher.

Blue Mountain commencement

Blue Mountain College held commencement exercises for its 117th annual session on Sunday, May 6. Eighty-three graduates from three states were awarded the bachelor's degree.

The program featured two guest speakers. Eddie L. Hamilton, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, delivered the baccalaureate address at 11 a.m. The commencement address was given at 3 p.m. by Bob Eugene Childers, executive director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Decatur, Ga.

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Lamar men reroof DOM's house

Douglas Benedict, director of missions of Lamar Association, is at Baylor Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, awaiting a liver transplant. At the associational spring meeting, Joe Fairchild, moderator, shared with those present that the Benedicts' home, which is also the associational office, leaked and needed a new roof. A work day was set on May 5, to reroof the house. All churches in the association received a special offering on May 6 to pay for the roof, with excess funds going to "Bro. Doug" to help defray his expenses in Dallas.

At 6:30 a.m. on May 5, approximately 50 men began work and in less than four hours the old roof had been replaced with a new one. Little clean-up was needed, as the old roofing had been thrown directly onto a dump truck. By 10:45 the work was done and a picnic lunch was provided by women of the association.

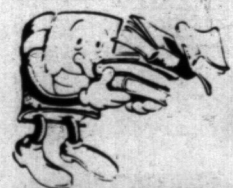
Everyone joined hands in a prayer circle; Richard Miley, pastor of Richburg Church, led in a prayer of thanksgiving for a job well done. Miley thanked God for Benedict and the tremendous influence he had on each one of those present.

Benedict is in his tenth week in Dallas waiting for a donor. For those of you who would like to offer him encouragement and prayer support, his address is Douglas E. Benedict, Sr., 3928 Junius St., Apt. 216, Dallas, TX 75246 (Phone — 214-820-7160).

Just for the Record

William L. Morgan will be the morning speaker for the Terry Road Church, Jackson anniversary celebration, May 27. He holds bachelor, master's, and doctor's degrees. He has served churches in Mississippi and Tennessee. Morgan has served eight years as missionary to Brazil. He is director of missionary enlistment, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va. A "home grown" tomato sandwich lunch will be served at the church. Henry Bennett is pastor.

North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, will celebrate its 35th anniversary on May 27. Activities include Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; and 1 p.m. service of praise and sharing. Bill Watson, first pastor of North Greenwood, will be guest speaker. Others on program will be J. H. Kysar and Charles Ray. Bert Breland is pastor.



Book reviews

FOOD IN THE FAUBOURGS (Dining in the Neighborhoods of New Orleans); Elizabeth and Macklyn Hubbell; MacBet Books, P. O. Box 8369, New Orleans, LA 70182; 261 pp. \$12.

Just in time for the Southern Baptist Convention, Elizabeth and Macklyn Hubbell have written an informative and entertaining book on restaurants off-the-beaten-path in New Orleans. You will not find Brennan's, Antoine's, nor the like; instead, chapters on cuisine Uptown, Downtown, French Quarter, East New Orleans, and Algiers make one want to get to the convention several days early just to sample food in some of the "places where locals go." The guide is privy to the city's best dishes in the faubourgs (neighborhoods) such as red beans and rice; soups and gumbo; po-boys; french bread, jambalaya, bread pudding.

Elizabeth, an educator of 25 years, has spent the last decade in Louisiana classrooms. Macklyn is professor of

psychology and counseling at New Orleans Seminary and was previously pastor of First Church, Cleveland, Miss.

Even if you don't attend the convention, you will enjoy this book which is available from the publisher. —IBM

Coleman, Robert E.; THE MASTER PLAN OF DISCIPLESHIP; Old Tappan. New Jersey; Revell, 1978.

The author is well-known in Christian circles. He has written many books.

The author draws extensively from the book of Acts in developing six principles of discipleship. The ideas are drawn from the life of the early church.

Much has been written on discipleship in recent years. Little is said in this book that has not already been said. However, this author is always helpful reading.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Judah foolishly forsakes Jehovah God

By Wayne Campbell
Jeremiah 2:5-8, 11-13

Charles G. Finney had a keen sense of humor which he often had trouble controlling. He said he could never preach on Jeremiah 2:13 because of the mental image it evoked. He envisioned some mule-headed fellow sweating laboriously over a creaking pump in an empty cistern while ignoring a bubbling fountain of fresh water that overflowed behind him. Finney dared not trust himself with that text before a congregation.



Campbell

Ridiculous though the picture is, that is exactly what God's people had done, according to his word to Jeremiah. God's stance in this passage seems to be one of perplexity. In verse 5, God poses a question that confronts their foolishness and challenges their choice. What iniquity, or what inadequacy, had they found in God that they should choose "emptiness" in preference to what he offered them? How could they justify turning away from God to that which was

LIFE AND WORK

unable to satisfy their needs?

Their walking after "emptiness" or "vanity" was like pursuing the morning mist or seeking to capture the vapor of one's breath. That which they pursued was without substance. Further, not only would they find no help in the worthless gods they followed, but they themselves would become "worthless" or "empty" in the process. We gradually become like that which we worship and serve, whether that worship and service is rendered consciously or not. While we may not always catch that which we pursue, what we pursue will eventually catch us.

Although Judah's sins were many, they all stemmed from their having forsaken Jehovah God. They had disregarded and forgotten his care and provision for them during their wilderness wanderings. God had brought them into a land where their every need was abundantly supplied. But their prosperity had been selfishly used, and God's land had become defil-

ed. Instead of being a missionary people seeking to show the one true God to other peoples, they had allowed their neighbors to paganize them and their worship practices. Some had totally forsaken the worship of Jehovah in favor of Baal. Others had sought to incorporate Baal worship into their own religious system. The result was a loss of true worship and a forfeiture of its blessings.

When we allow ourselves to forget what God has done for us in the past; when we forget those we are and what we are to be as his people; when we allow our worship of him to be compromised, we need to remember his cry to Judah. Continual reflection upon that which God has done and is seeking to do for us and through us is one preventive against forsaking God. Regular genuine worship of him keeps us conscious of who he is and of our proper relationship to him. If 'worship' for us ever becomes simply a matter of being in a certain place at an appointed time to go through a prescribed program, we are in danger of forsaking God. For that void left by mindless ritual will seek fulfillment elsewhere. When God is not kept in

his position of preeminence in our lives, something else will readily take his place.

Despite the idolatry of the pagans, they at least were faithful to their own deities. God's people were guilty of disloyalty and idolatry.

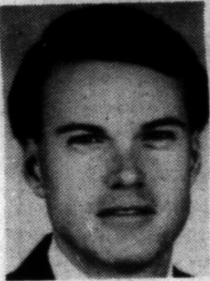
An aunt of mine once drank Clorox. It was by mistake, of course. When the bleach was used up, she would keep the jug as a container for ice water. One August afternoon she came in from hanging out the laundry, opened the refrigerator, and grabbed the plastic jug from the shelf. What she didn't know was that her mother had seen the jug of bleach sitting on the cabinet, and, assuming someone had left the ice water out of the refrigerator, had put it back where it belonged. My aunt had taken three mighty gulps of chilled bleach before she stopped for a breath. The laundry bleach had been put where the ice water should have been, and had unwittingly been trusted to quench a thirst that only water could satisfy. Not only did the bleach fail to meet the need, but it created a whole new set of problems. Such is the prospect that invariably faces man in forsaking God.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

Sources of spiritual growth: pain, prayer, practice

By N. Allan Moseley
James 1:1-27

I expected to see a victim, but the one who had experienced great pain obviously had become strong through her struggle. I was one of the first to arrive at the scene of the car accident;



Moseley

we saw that her leg had been crushed by the impact of the truck on her car. She kept calling out, "Please help me. Somebody, please help me." We tried to pry her door open manually, but only the paramedics with their equipment were able to bend the steel to release her. I lost touch with her for 11 months,

but through a strange set of circumstances I found out who she was and where I could visit her. When I talked with her I learned about the hospital stay, the amputation of the leg, and the prosthesis. But what I also learned was that this Christian's ordeal had somehow made her stronger, not weaker. I learned the surprising spiritual lesson that James teaches in verses 2-4 of the first chapter of his letter — our greatest pain can be the source of our greatest spiritual growth.

BIBLE BOOK

We fritter away a lot of time and mental energy trying to determine the "why" of our suffering. Such a question can be productive if it leads us to see sinful behavior that is to be changed, but there are many times that the answer will be out of our reach. The more biblical question is "how?" "How can this suffering produce endurance and perfection in me?" "The trying of your faith worketh patience (endurance) . . . that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (vss. 3-4). Though a natural leg had been subtracted from the lady, with the prosthesis it was evident that much more had been added to her spirit. She was more perfect, she lacked less, because of her suffering.

"Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" sounds strange to us. Joy, we think, is the result of the absence of trials, not the presence of them. What enables us to consider it a joy to suffer? James wrote that it is the knowledge of what pain produces (vss. 3-4). It

is not popular platitudes, like "time heals all wounds," or "cheer up, it could be worse;" it is the compelling truth that suffering produces spiritual toughness. Only through life's difficulties can we learn "how to be abased and how to abound," and how to be content in all circumstances (Phil. 4:11-13). The knowledge of that fact produces joy.

In his first chapter, James mentions other sources of spiritual growth. One such source is the prayer of faith (vss. 5-8). The prayer in this context has three important elements. First, it is prayer in the midst of suffering. Sometimes we are so busy blaming God or being angry with him that we do not speak to him from the fire, but James wrote that the time of pain or temptation is the very time to ask God for wisdom. Second, this is a prayer for an intangible reality (wisdom), not a tangible blessing. We have heard many times that we can petition God for tangible help to get us out of difficulty, but James exhorted believers to pray for wisdom while they were in the difficulty. Both prayers are valid. Third, the prayer of these verses is a prayer of faith (vss. 6-7). If we do not believe, then we will not expect anything from God (vs. 7).

Another source of spiritual growth is the

practice of our faith (vss. 21-27). It is not knowledge of Bible facts alone that causes us to grow; it is the doing of the word (vs. 22). In contrasting those who are mature and those who are spiritual babies, the writer of Hebrews described mature Christians in this way: "Those who by reason of use have their senses exercised . . ." (Heb. 5:14). Jesus told us to make disciples of all the nations, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20).

These ingredients for spiritual growth are important precisely because they involve approaching the great issues of life in a way that is the opposite of the world's approach. The goal of unregenerate man is not endurance and joy through trials; it is life without trials. The world's response to suffering is not a single-minded prayer for wisdom, but the selfish pursuit of tangible gifts from on high. Further, the unredeemed do not consider it glory to obey in humble servanthood, but to be in charge and in control. In short, those who do not know Christ do not know the way of the cross, but it is to the cross that Christ's followers have been called.

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport.)

Truth and love are essential elements for fellowship

By Tommy Vinson

II John 1-6, III John 1-8

Both II and III John came from the divinely inspired pen of "The Elder." The term may refer to one of advanced age; to a formal office in the church; or to an affectionate title for a well-known apostle who embodied both of the previous ideas. One of the many reasons I believe the apostle John wrote both these brief epistles is the continued emphasis on "truth" and "love."



Vinson

It is a characteristic of this apostle of love to hold these two ideas in tension. John defends his initial thesis found throughout the first epistle that Christians cannot have fellowship where there are lies and false doctrine. Just as hydrogen and oxygen are essential elements which allow water to exist, so truth and love are essential elements

UNIFORM

which allow Christian fellowship to exist. Love without truth is merely saccharin-sweetened froth; whereas, truth without love is often a theological club used to bludgeon our heretical opponents into submission.

In II John, the emphasis is upon not receiving false teachers into our home. By way of contrast, the emphasis in III John is to assure that we do respond hospitably to the teachers of truth. The ones we are not to receive into our homes are those who have "transgressed" or "gone beyond" the doctrine of Christ (II John 9). He refers here to those who are not content to stay within the divinely ordained perimeters of the Word of God. Those who hold the view that denies either the deity or the humanity of Jesus Christ are not to be the recipients of our hospitality (II John 7). Simon Kistemaker says

that the phrase "receive into your house" may have a broader connotation that appears on the surface. Since churches often met in houses, John may be saying that a Christian must never allow these false teachers to enter their homes with a view of allowing them to present their spurious beliefs to the fellowship as a whole. James and I - III John, Simon J. Kistemaker, Page 383. One wonders how many fledgling Christians have been irreparably wounded and deceived outrightly because they allowed false teachers who denied the deity of Christ to come into their homes and present their doctrine. True Christian love is not a license to indulge in indiscriminate religious toleration.

III John presents the other side of the picture. In this brief but intensely personal letter, Gaius is commended for his Christian hospitality (vss. 1-8). John's prayer that he be as healthy physically as he was spiritually would be a challenge for us to pray today (III John 2). Some wag has suggested if that prayer were suddenly answered in the average church today,

most folks would not be well enough to walk out of the church on their own. Gaius' spiritual health was evidenced by his "walk in the truth" (vs. 3). Unlike Diotrephes, who was known for his "love for the preeminence," (vs. 9) Gaius was humble, unassuming, and generous in his service to Christ. Lehman Strauss aptly described Diotrephes when he wrote, "Diotrephes is the father of a long line of sons who have not learned to distinguish between love for Christ and his church and love for their own place in it" (The Epistles of John, p. 165). The great Greek scholar, A. T. Robertson, wrote an article on Diotrephes for religious publication. He labeled Diotrephes "the church boss," and presented an account on how this man might operate in the modern church. Robertson said later, probably in jest, that 20 deacons had written the editor cancelling their subscriptions because they considered it a personal attack.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Feb. 1, 1990 -
Mar. 31, 1990

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Approximately one year ago, the Village Administration instituted a career ladder for its child care workers, in an effort to upgrade the training, qualifications, and status of this segment of the staff. Two of the child care workers have recently attained senior child care worker status, which is a significant accomplishment, denoting at least eight years of service in addition to extensive training. This is the highest rating which a child care worker can achieve.

Those receiving this recognition were **Frances Boyanton** (right) and **Mildred Turner** (left). Mrs. Boyanton joined the Village staff in 1976, has served as virtually every Village facility, and is currently serving in the Maternity Care Program. Mrs. Turner joined the staff in 1982, and is currently serving in the Chemical Dependency Program, having served in other programs also.

We commend these ladies for their dedication, and for the very fine job they do and the influence they continue to have in the lives of Mississippi children.

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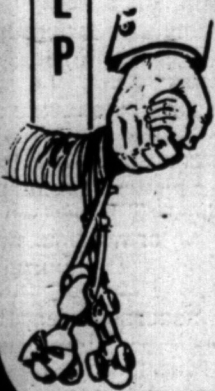
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Leaf Mission holds first meeting under an oak tree, with 72 present. The group later becomes New Life Church.

Finally, a New Life

By Tim Nicholas

From a tree to an Army surplus tent to a mobile chapel, New Life Baptist Church is moving toward a permanent home.

Last summer a majority of the Baptist members of a union Baptist and Methodist church at Leaf voted to begin a full time program.

On July 16, 1989, the group met at the home of Homer Dunham. Sunday School classes were held in the yard with smaller children in the house. The worship service was under the shade of an oak tree.

That day the group organized by electing Sunday School teachers, officers, and calling a pastor, Jerry Rawls, who had been the Baptist pastor of the union church. They called the new work Leaf Baptist Mission. There were 63 in Sunday School, 72 in worship, and 65 in evening worship that first day.



Tent is used as meeting place for 20 weeks.

The fourth week they purchased an Army surplus tent (12 x 52), put down a wooden floor, brought in a piano, pulpit, and PA system.

Said Pastor Rawls, "We worshiped in the tent for 20 straight weeks with Sunday School classes meeting outside in the yard. During that 20 weeks, it never rained on us nor was it ever too cold to have services."

He added, "As winter approached, God blessed us by providing a mobile chapel through the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board." He said that after they received the mobile chapel, they had some of the coldest and wettest weather of recent years.



A mobile chapel is provided by the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, for the New Life Church.

Mobile chapels are placed with new churches through state mission offering funds. The program is administered by the Cooperative Missions Department, Ray Grissett, director. A total of 17 chapels are owned by the board for use in new work areas.

Now the church, which took the name New Life Baptist Church, has 14 acres on Highway 57 on the Greene and George County line.

There are 118 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 72. Pastor Rawls, a bivocational minister who works as chief administrative technologist at Forrest General Hospital, reports 31 baptisms since last July.

The group is in the process of grading and paving for the foundation of a permanent church building which will go up shortly.

Said Rawls, "The value of new works started under God's will is proven time and time again. Our experience has not been any different."

Church Administration chooses "Small Church Pastors of the Year"

Wayne T. Hill, pastor of West End Church, Louisville, and Bobby E. Cobb, pastor of Randolph Church, Randolph, were selected as Mississippi's Outstanding Pastors of Small Churches for 1990.

The Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, gives yearly recognition to pastors of small churches "who display noteworthy and meritorious achievement in pastoral ministry and/or denominational service."

The Church Administration Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Julius Thompson, director, chose Hill and Cobb as Mississippi nominees and entered their names in national competition.

Then the Church Administration Department, BSSB, selected two for the national title, Small Church Pastor of the Year, one from the eastern USA and one from the western USA. National winners, who will be recognized at Ridgecrest or Glorieta later this year, are Richard Wright, pastor, Faith Church, Warwick, R.I., and John Richards, pastor, Village Church, Jordan Valley, Ore.

Wayne Hill has lived most of his life in Winston County. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and has taken seminary courses through Winston County's Extension Center.

Murphy Creek licensed Hill to the ministry in 1986, the year he was called to the pastorate of West End Church. As layman, he had been RA director, deacon, and lay preacher. During 11 years as research analyst at Taylor Machine Works, he was "a soul winner on the job," according to Jerry Stevens, Winston Association director of missions.

A bi-vocational minister, Hill is assistant director of the Millsaps Vocational Center at Starkville. As a teacher of vocational training, Stevens said, "he is in contact with some 1,200 students. As their counselor and friend, he has led many to faith in the Lord Jesus." His counseling experience has touched many problems that affect youth, such as drugs and suicide.

During his pastorate at West End, the church has grown substantially, from 140 members in 1986 to 181 in 1989. Baptisms in 1986 totalled two; in 1989, they reached 13. Last year, West End Church was first in baptisms and second in church growth in the Winston Association.

Hill has led the church to organize a Brotherhood and an RA. He and his

wife, Sandra, have organized WMU, Ateens, GAS, and Missions Friends. A new education wing and a fellowship hall have been built, the



Wayne T. Hill

parking lot paved, and the sanctuary remodeled. A van ministry offers transportation to many to church activities. Under Hill's leadership, the church has adult, youth, and children's choirs. One person under his guidance has surrendered to the ministry — Charles Rook, who is now pastor of Singleton Church, Winston Association.

Rook stated, "I have heard Brother Wayne quote II Corinthians 5:20 — 'We are ambassadors for Christ' — many times. That describes him well, I think."

Danny R. Clifton, a West End member, said, "Brother Wayne personifies Jesus' description of success stated in Mark's words, 'Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.'"

In the association, he is pastors' conference president, member of the administrative committee, and a trustee of the association. Outside the association, he is secretary for the Bi-vocational Pastors' Conference, Group 4.

Bobby E. Cobb has been pastor of Randolph Church since June, 1981. He completed requirements for a degree at Blue Mountain College after moving there.

Wade Allen, director of missions, Pontotoc County stated, "Bobby Cobb may be characterized by the following words . . . listener, learner, lover, leader, and minister. The church he serves was problem ridden when he

was called to be pastor. The above words reveal his ministry over these years. Listening to all sides and people without being judgmental helped him to learn about the people, the church, and the community. Love was expressed in sermons, deacons' meetings, and visitation. Brother Cobb has been a leader to bring the church together in a close fellowship, and to minister to the needs. And through it all, growth has resulted."

Also Cobb has been involved in community activities. He has served as Little League baseball coach and is substitute teacher in the local school.

In the association, he has been moderator, family ministries' director, pastors' conference president, chairman of the administrative committee, and ASSISTeam director.

"Cobb," said Allen, "has been a strong supporter of missions, leading his church to set goals and surpassing them for the special missions offerings." He has gone with associational missions teams to several out-of-state projects and also in the state. He is Area 2 Royal-Ambassador coordinator for the state Brotherhood Department.



Bobby E. Cobb



New Life Church dedicates 14 acres of land and breaks ground for construction of building.

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